

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12-13 and 15-24 are pending. Claims 4, 7-11, and 14 were previously canceled. Claims 6, 12, 15 and 21 are amended. Claims 22-24 are new. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification at paragraphs 21-22 of the published application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-3, 5, 13 and 16-20 are allowed.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as indefinite in the recitation of the term "small scale". The claim has been amended to recite specific characteristics of a small scale reaction. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 12, 15 and 21 have been rejected as lacking clarity in the recitation of the term "a block copolymer that provide defoaming/antifoaming action by forming an insoluble monolayer at the air/water interface of the foam". The claim has been amended to provide additional details for selection of an agent, as described in paragraph 22 of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that one of skill in the art is readily apprised of the metes and bounds of the claimed invention. Applicants note that at paragraph 22 Applicants have provided guidance for the selection of a suitable block copolymer antifoam agent, and specific examples of such agents.

Among the noted examples are PLURONIC and reverse structure PLURONIC agents. This designation does not refer to a single agent, but a category of agents having a defined structure, for example as described in the attached product description and abstract. One of skill in the art is informed of the genera of suitable antifoam agents.

Applicants further submit that the use of block copolymer antifoam agents is recognized as a term of art, and has been accepted as claim language in a number of issued patents, including, *inter alia*: U.S. Patent no. 7,674,885, Claim 6, which reads "wherein the organic polymer is a nonionic block copolymer"; U.S. Patent no. 7,491,247, Claim 7, which reads "The invert fuel emulsion composition of claim 1 comprising from about 1,000 ppm to about 5,000 ppm block copolymer"; U.S. Patent no. 7,435,577, Claim 15, which recites "wherein said combination of reagents includes block copolymer surfactants"; and U.S. Patent no. 7,407,522, Claim 1, which recites "said surfactant package includes a primary surfactant, a block copolymer, and a polymeric dispersant".

Applicants respectfully submit in view of the above amendments and remarks that presently pending Claims 12, 15 and 21 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

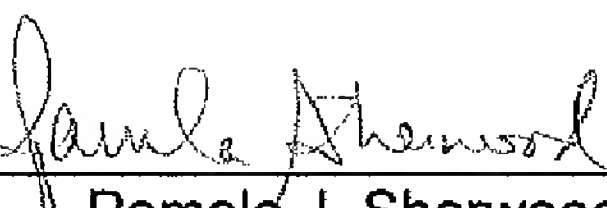
Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

If it is determined that fees are required in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees, or alternatively, credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0815, Order No. STAN-353.

Respectfully submitted,

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